SPECIA

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FOR RENT

THE HORIZON

Housing for students, faculty & visitors to campus. •Furnished rooms w/all bills paid •Reasonable rates *Free shuttle to and from Texas A&M *Optional meals plans *Short term housing available *Various amenities Call 779-7091 Today!

Female roommate needed for sublease @ University
Tower, spring semester. 268-4570

Tower, spring semester. 268-4570 Spacious 1bdrm/1ba, sublease, The Enclave. Available Dec. 15. All amenities. Very nice, safe & quiet. \$580/mo. 696-1703 Spacious 1bdrm/1ba efficiency apartment. 5 months remaining on lease. Treehouse Village 694-1321. lease - Large 3bdrm/2ba duplex. Bryan \$575/mo. - May. 822-1690

Subleases needed - spacious 2bdrm/2ba apartment.
Reasonable rent 696-8918

Reasonable rent 696-8918
House 2bdrm/1ba, W/D conn., fenced yard, pets OK, 5
min. to TAMU, Albertson's, available Dec. 26, \$550/mo.
Call 764-8336. Leave message.
Sublease available Dec.-May. No deposit.
2bdrm/1.5ba. Close to campus, shuttle, pool, laundry.
\$530/mo. Call Jon, Kurt, or Stephanie 691-8715
Classy 2bfrm/1ba partment micro/alarm. 1st month

Classy 2bdrm/1ba apartment, micro/alarm, 1st month free. \$399/mo 691-2464 or 823-3061 3bdrm/1.5ba house, central H/A, carpeted. No pets, near campus \$650/mo. Call 690-0085.

Sublease my single room w/ bathroom. Available mid-December - May. Utilities + cable free. Price nego-tiable. Various amenities. Call Wade @ 822-9596 ext. Sublease 2 bdrm/2 bath, shuttle, \$505/mo., Timber

Creek Apts. Available 1/1/96-5/15/96. Call 846-6190 Sublease! Private dorm at University Tower w/ meal plan & much more! Females only! \$707.50/mo. Call 268-5629 or (903)778-4417 Sublease - Available December, 3 bdrm/1 1/2 ba. 2-

story house, backyard, fence, w/ W/D, bus rt. \$750/mo

Sublease spacious 2 bdrm/2 bath ASAP, Briarwood Apts., \$520/mo., on shuttle. 764-8748
Sublease until May. Casa Blanca Apt. 2bdrm/1ba \$450/mo. Available Mid-Dec. Furnished. Close to campus. Dec. rent, deposit paid. Cheap furniture. 846-2012.

3bdrm/2ba Mobile Home, close to campus, \$460/mo. Available Jan. 1st. Call Robert (713) 341-0176.

Sublease University Tower. Female only, private bath, meals included \$1800/sem. Call Kristy 268-4509.
Sublease Cripple Creek Apartments 2bdrm/2ba, W/D, bus rt., \$600/mo. Dan 696-5496

Need to sublease ASAP, Large 1bdrm/1ba, W/D, \$580/mo Enclave 693-3533. Sublease - Treehouse Village efficiency. Available Dec.
1 - May 31, 1996. New carpet, shuttle bus route 696-

1990z.

Thdrm/1ba sublease \$390/mo Briarwood Apts. Available December 696-1117. Deposit negotiable.

Subleasing 1bdrm/1ba. No deposit needed. M/F. \$250/mo. + bills. Brock 764-6729, (713)705-8894

Special rent offer thru Dec. 21 \$275/mo. 1bdrm at Polo Club Apart. On bus rt. Actual rent \$375/mo. no deposit Bakshi 862-3411 or 764-8772. Sublease available mid-December. 1bdrm/1ba Tree-

Sublease availage on bus route. Rent negotiable. 696-6214
Sublease 2bdrm/2ba \$500/mo. \$150 dep. (negotiable.) Available 1/1/96 -8/15/96. Call 693-0709
Apartment for rent -Fall/Summer 2bdrm/2ba Plantation
Oaks \$590/mo. Dan 764-9627 or (512) 985-4379. Large 1bdrm, pool, balcony, laundry room, near shuttle, w/ sewer paid. \$395/mo. 268-0840

Large 2bdrm/1ba apartment/ sublease Dec. 15 - May. Option to renew. \$500/mo. 764-1836

Treehouse Village. Sublease Jan.-May. Large 2bdrm/2ba, walk to campus, shuttle, W/D connection \$705/mo. 696-8462

Large 1bdrm/1ba. On bus route, pets OK \$380/mo. Ready ASAP 693-2597

\$\$\$Enclave sublease\$\$\$ 2bdrm/2 bath, \$765/mo, vs. \$810/mo. Available 12-1-95, 694-4045/694-3700 Sublease for Jan-Aug, large 1bdrm/1ba at Courtyard Apartments. Close to campus, mall. Shuttle, pool, \$400/mo. Thomas 694-8086

College Station 3bdrm/2ba fourplex, W/D included. Some bills paid. Walk to shuttle, near Wolf Pen Creek park 846-4409 nt Best floor pla

Large 1bdrm/1ba efficie available with built-in desk & bookshelf. Fenced patio, stackable W/D conn., pool, on shuttle. 846-4409 Spacious Col. Sta. 2bdrm/1.5ba fourplex, W/D inc., some bills paid, shuttle, 846-4409

Bryan 2bdrm/1ba, 2bdrm/1.5ba duplex, fenced yard, W/D conn., some bills paid. Pets O.K. 846-4409 Sublease efficiency apartment for spring semester, move-in date negotiable, \$365/mo, CS. 764-5851

Studio apartment. 5 min. from campus. Will pay deposit & 1 mo./ rent. 764-8628

Nice 1-1 condo - M/D, fireplace, over 710 sq. ft., sacrifice @ \$400/mo. no pets 846-8064
Sublease 2bdrm/2ba spacious apartment in Briarwood Apts. \$550/mo. 696-7144

2bdrm/1ba, close to campus, furnished or unfurnished, great for students, Casa Blanca Apts. 846-1413 University Tower-Tower double, male roommate, gated parking, meal plan, computer lab, weight rm., maid service, \$2,800. 268-4469

Special rent offer through Jan. '96. 1, 2, & 3/bdrm apartments available, on shuttle route, 1201 Harvey Road. 693-3014 University Tower - Garden Double, January - May '96,

female, parking, shuttle, 19 meals/wk, security \$450/mo or \$2,000/ 5 mo. Call 409-268-4438 Wendy 806-273-2320 Judy

1bdrm/1ba apartment for sublease - end of fall semes-

ter thru May. All bills paid. Deposit already pre-paid. \$455/mo 696-4653 For Spring '96: 2bdrm/2ba apartment \$515/mo + utili-

ties. Walking distance from campus, on shuttle route. Contemporary 1bdrm/1ba apartment. Raised ceiling, fireplace, sunken living room. Kim 846-1500

Sublease now or spring! Sausalito 2brm/1-1/2ba. Poolside \$555/mo. Call Andy 693-9882 Spring subleasel Jan-May! Huge 2bdrm/2ba, W/D conn. patlo, shuttle bus. Treehouse Village \$705/mo. Call Jessica/Laura 693-1028

Large 2bdrm/1ba, great location on shuttle, microwave, intrusion alarm & celling fans \$399/mo 823-7039

Student Special - Relocate now, be ready for finals. Furnished 1bdrm/1ba apartment \$345/mo. Free Nov. & Dec. rent w/ signed lease through Aug. 20, 1996 846-

Large 2bdrm/ 1-1/2ba \$525 rent, W/D, available January. Manuel Dr. 4-plexes 693-0551.

16 foot low-boy trailer - car hauler \$40 for 24 hours

AUTO

'86 Mazda RX-7 GXL, new tires, great student car \$5,500 846-7069. 79 AMC Concord \$650. Good running condition. Great

for college. Call 693-8203. \$ negotiable.
Ford 1986 Tempo AM/FM cassette, good condition \$1350 691-8692

COMPUTERS

486-33 4 meg ram 220HD 14" VGA & modem, mouse, keyboard, dot printer, pre-installed software \$599 260-

Compaq laptop for sale. 386 hard drive. With mouse and software. \$500 or best offer. Call Angie 693-3102 Macs & printers for sale/lease from \$35/mo. Software, repairs, RAM/HD upgrades. MacResource 775-7703

LOST & FOUND

Lost cat - short hair. Calico, declawed w/out collar, in 2818 area 764-8431 Found: German Shepherd puppy, 5-6 mo., on College Main. Joe 846-7701

FOR SALE

Schwinn side winder 18-speed bike for sale with Shimano shift. Paid \$250, asking \$125 o.b.o. Call Aimee at 775-8071 Must sell 6 almost new Pioneer car speakers. Call for

details, \$200 o.b.o. Diamond engagement ring \$800 o.b.o. Call Shaina 764-9232. Vory-colored-chest of drawers and twin bed w/trundle. \$200 for both. Will sell separate. Call 779-2093 leave

Neon signs. Bud Dry, \$105. Killian's Red, \$130. Ferret cage, \$65. Call Bob at 693-5522. Cage, 503. Call Bot at 693-3522.
486/33 8 Meg 400 Hard, Soundblaster joysticks, 14"
SVGA monitor, Office 3.0, DOS 5.0, Widows 3.1, modem, 24-pin printer, \$899. Pioneer 80-watt receiver, \$119. Call Aron 696-8969.

\$119. Call Aron 696-8969.
Schwinn Tempo road bike, Shimano 105 components,
Aero bar, Wolber rims, Avocet computer, Excellent condition \$375 o.b.o. Dustin 764-3182.
For Sale t.u. sports passes \$50 o.b.o. per ticket, Junior pull day so they will be good seats. Call Chip 694-8584

For Sale - full size futon \$100, 5-piece dining set \$125. Call 764-1727 4 alloy rims, 14x6, from Toyota Celica GTS, good condition, includes center caps & chrome lug nuts \$85 o.b.o. 260-1446 Smith-Corona PWP 4000 with 15 inch monitor and disk

drive. ASCII convertible. Perfect condition. Additional accessories. \$200 o.b.o. 694-1639 For sale: 3bdrm/2ba 16x80 mobile home, great condition, '87 Redman (409) 779-6534 Senior winter boot pants for sale. Make an offer.

(919)335-7686 Small computer desk \$75 Chad 821-6330 For sale. Large dorm refrigerator 34"x19"x18" \$95. Call Doug 847-0396 84-inch couch tuxedo-style, good condition \$200 o.b.o.

REAL ESTATE

2 side-by-side condos at Doubletree. Originally occupied by brother & sister Aggies. \$32,500 & \$27,500. (412) 864-1006.

GOV'T FORECLOSED homes for pennies on \$1. Delinquent tax, Repo's, REO's. Your area. Toll free 1-800-898-9778 ext. H-1652 for current listings.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Information Services - Operations Technician Responsibilities include: Starting & monitoring daily production jobs, printing & delivering reports. 2 yrs. computer experience required. Part-time position (late evening hours). Send resume to: Human Resources Department - Anco Insurance of Bryan./ C. Sta., P.O. Box 3889, Bryan, TX 77805 (409)776-1308(fx) The 12th Man Foundation is seeking energetic TAMU

tudents as nightly telemarketers. Those interested nust be articulate & possess good communication kills. Pay is \$5.50/hr. for minimum 15 hrs./week. Apply Rm. 109 of the Koldus Building through Wednesday, Earn \$500 next semester! Marketing agency looking for student representative. Call Neil 1-800-783-4237 ext.

Mational Parks Hiring - Positions are now available at National Parks, Forest & Wildlife Preserves. Excellent benefits + bonuses! 1-206-545-4804 ext. N58551 penents + ponusest 1-206-545-4804 ext. N58551
Part-time research chemist position available at fast growing R&D firm. Candidates should have a bachelor's degree in chemistry, chemical engineering, biochemistry or related subject. Graduate students are highly encouraged to apply. Send resume or drop by Lynntech, Inc., 7610. Eastmark Dr., Ste. 105 College Station, TX 77840 EOE. to fill by 11/30/95, Experienced Sales. Person for electronic above. Experienced Sales Person for electronic store. Call

ADVENTURE/ OUTSIDE JOBS Students Needed! Parks, Dude Ranches, Theme Parks, Resorts & more! Destinations. include Alaska, Hawaii, Colorado, Vermont, etc. FREE VIDEO with program! Call now for summer! SEI (919) 932-1489 ext. R31

CRUISE SHIPS HIRING - Travel the world while earning an excellent income in the Cruise Ship & Land-Tour Industry. Seasonal & full-time employment available. No experience necessary. For info., call 1-206-634-0468 ext. C58557.

HELP WANTED

ATTENTION **WOMEN**

If you are 15 years of age or older and are experiencing symptoms of a vaginal infection, you may be eligible to participate in an open label research program Bacterial Vaginosis. Qualified participants will receive the study medication, a physical exam, laboratory tests and a monetary stipend at the successful completion of the study to compensate for your time & travels.

For more information, please call

J & S Studies, Inc. 846 - 5933

Company has opportunities in development, testing and maintenance of several existing Windows-basec commercial software tools, as well as assisting in design and implementation of new software tools. C++ or C programming experience required. Exp. w/ Windows, NT, Borland OWL, MFC, OLE a plus. Full & Parttime available. Send resume to P.O. Box 9930, College Station, TX 77842 Carpenter needed full-time. Multiple skills helpful. Leave message at 779-8113.

INSPIRATIONS needs part-time help for Christmas Nov. 10 - Jan. 5. Apply at Inspirations at Post Oak Mall. Part-time phone receptionist needed, evenings & Sat-

urdays, must have good communication skills. Apply in person between 9 & 5 only, 601 S. Texas Avenue. Holiday Help. Part-time Now & Full-time during Break. Flexible schedules - Will train. Scholarships/ Internships available. \$7.95 to start. Call 10-4 691-8959 EA SPORTS, the leader in sports video games is looking for a motivated student to organize a campus video game football tournament. Must have great organizational skills & play sports video games. You will receive cash plus a reference letter & games. For more information call Eric Petersen @ (415) 513-7175 or e-mail:

epetersen@ea.com. Bills to pay? Aggie Outreach is accepting applications for spring & summer, employment. Talk to former students & earn money. Flexible evening hours, \$5.50/hr + bonus. Call 845-0425 or fill out an application at the Assn. of Former Students, corner of Bush & Houston,

Part-time job helping handicap. Male A&M student preferred - \$270/mo 12 hrs/wk. Call after 7pm 846-3376. \$Cruise Ships Hiring! Students needed! \$\$\$4-Free Travel (Caribbean, Europe, Hawaii!) Seasonal/permanent, no experience necessary. Guide (919) 329-4398 ext. C 1023

Need help promoting the circus. Year round work. Flexible evening hours. No weekends. 846-8818 Telemarketers needed now. Come by 4012 Stillmead-ow. Mon.-Fri. 5:00p.m. ready to work. Comer of East 29th. and Stillmeadow behind Oakj Food Mart. Need part-time cleaners for commercial buildings. Working hours: 5pm-8pm. Hours vary sometimes. No weekend work. Great for college students, must have car and phone. Call 823-1614 for appointment.

DJ Music

Sound Power Professional DJ Service. Parties/ Mixers/ Weddings. Lights/ Smoke/ Karaoke. 696-9754. PARTY BLOCK Mobile DJ. Professional, will travelf Specializing in Aggie Weddings, Parties. References Available. 693-6294.

STARZ Mobile Entertainment. Professional Sound/Lighting. Church/School Dances, Weddings, Parties. Any Occasion. 1-800-435-6065, 694-8981.

MISCELLANEOUS

Beer-bongs - holds a 6-pack, no leakş, guaranteed \$22 + \$3 s/h (303)716-0260 Grants and scholarships are available. Billions of Grants and scholarships are available, Billions of dollars in grants. Qualify immediately. 1-800-243-2435 (1-800-AID-2-HELP)
Attention All Students!!! Grants offered by major companies. Billions of dollars available. Call 1-800-AID-2-HELP (1-800-243-2435).

FREE FINANCIAL AIDI. Over \$6 Billion in private sector grants & scholarships is now available. All students are eligible regardless of grades, income, or parent's income. Let us help. Call Student Financial Services: 1-800-263-6495 ext. F58554.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Desperately seeking Demitri M. - who doesn't know he is Demitri. White male, born 3/21/1977 - Houston, adopted through an agency. Your birth mother is alive & well (8 normal). Anyone w information please write Teresa, Box 1521, Laurel MD, 20725-1521.

ROOMMATE

Christian male roommate needed for Spring '96. 3bdrm/2ba duplex. Own room, bus rt. \$215/mo. + 1/3 utilities 846-1632

Own room in huge house behind Southgate. Prefer 1 or 2 males. \$180 or \$266/mo. Call Shannon or Todd 764-9789 Female needed to share room in 2bdrm/2ba apart-

ment. On bus route. Rent approx. \$170/mo + 1/3 utili-ties. Call Wendi 693-2154 after 6pm. Female needed to share 2bdrm/2ba for Spring. \$221.67/mo. + 1/3 utilities. 693-4699 Female roommate needed 4bdrm/4ba houseplex near

shuttle, own rm/ba, \$250/mo + utilities. Spring semes Female non-smoker needed to share 2bdrm/1.5ba for spring and/or summer. \$283/mo. includes cable, gas & water, + 1/2 utilities. Misti 693-3324. Male needed for spring to share 2bdrm/2ba condo.
Great accommodations! For more information, call

Male needed for spring to share 2 bdrm/2 bath condo. Great accommodations! For more information call Michael 764-4555 Will have own room & bathroom. \$375/mo. All bills paid. Ann 845-3358 8-5pm, Lance 774-4302 after 6pm. Roommate needed! Need female roommate for 3/2

house in SW Valley. Huge backyard. Nice neighborhood. On shuttle. \$250/mo + 1/3 utilities. Call Heather Female roommate wanted spring/summer 2bdrm/1.5ba \$260/mo. + 1/2 utilities, on bus route 694-8429 Roommate needed for spring semester. M/F 2bdrm/1ba. Northgate area. \$225/mo. + 1/2 utilities. No

Christian roommate needed for January. 2bdrm/1ba duplex. Close to campus. \$275/mo + 1/2 utilities. Call Stephanie 694-2049

Female roommate wanted 2 share 3bdrm/2ba house. W/2 others W/D, pets welcome, walk to campus 696-9443 Female roommate needed for Spring '96 2bdrm/2ba \$198/mo. + 1/3 utilities 764-4771

Female roommate(s) 3bdrm/2ba. New duplex. Quiet area. W/D incl., fenced, 6 min to campus. \$295/bdrm 764-9154 Female A&M roommate needed. Free rent & utilities. Call for details 846-3376

PETS

Colombian red-tailed boa. Very tame. Approximately 5 ft. Female, beautiful markings. Heat rock and lamp included. \$250 o.b.o. 764-1974

GARAGE SALE

! Saturday 11/18 7am-5pm. Furr gage, kitchen, clotning, electronics, jewelry, & linen: 3132 E. 29th Apt. #105, Bryan. (Behind Bryan Eagle)

SERVICES

Planning on getting married soon?

Where are you going to hold the reception? Have you ever considered the **Faculty Club?**

Yes, it is possible. For more information, please call Bridget Cole at 862-2988.

Talk to anyone for 20 hrs./mo. in Dallas/ Ft. Worth/ Houston for only \$50/month. Contact Regina @ Metro Connection. 1-800-758-2030 ext. 300 Typing service - fast, accurate, laser printer, spell check, 7-day availability 776-8530

check, 7-day availability 776-8530
Diamond Enterprises presents male dancers for your private engagements 696-6650
Concealed handgun proficiency course, \$70, call Targetmaster Training at 693-3363. Will match local competitors advertised prices.

AAA Texas Defensive Driving & Driver's Training. Lotof-fun, Laugh-a-lot!! Ticket dismissal , insurance discount. M-Tu (6pm-9pm), Tu (8:30am-3pm), Tu-W (8:30am-11:30am), W-Th (6pm-9pm), Fri (6pm-8pm) & Sat (10am-2:30pm), Sat (8am-2:30pm), Sun (12pm-6:30pm). Next to Black Eyed Pea. Walk-ins welcome. \$25 w/ad = \$5 off. 111 Univ. Dr., Ste. 217, 846-6117.

TRAVEL







DAYTONA BEACH KEY WEST STEAMBOAT

HILTON HEAD ISLAND 1-800-SUNCHASE FOLL FREE ENFORMATION & RESERVATIONS OR SURF OVER TO DUR WEB SITE AT: http://www.sunchase.com

PERSONALS

Seeking single Christian lady 20-35 as travel compan-ion for sunny grandmother & light housework. Send resume, reft's, & photo to Apt, 1103 Cedar Creek Condo, 1000 Univ. Dr., College Station, TX 77840

Howdy December Graduates! I need graduation tickets for Saturday. Will pay top dollar. Call Jennifer 696-

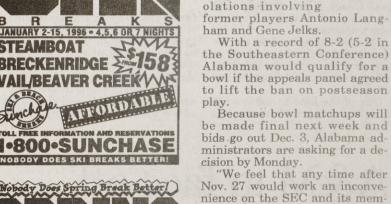
Wanted: 100 students. Lose 8-100 lbs. New metabolism breakthrough. I lost 15 lbs. in 3 weeks. R.N. Assisted. Guaranteed Results. \$35 Cost. 1-800-579-1634. (409)823-3307

GRADS, MEDS, & VETS

Aggieland pictures are taken Tuesdays-Fridays, 9 to 5 at AR PHOTOGRAPHY. Graduate, Medical, & Veterinary Students have until Dec. 1 to have their picture taken for the 1996 AGGIELAND.











VAIL/BEAVER CREEK

Hol Hol Hola? Christmas break, learn Spanish in rich mountains of Cuernavaca, Mexico. Wknd Acapulco. 2-6 wks, 0-9 crdts. U.S. accred. \$895 up. 1-800-747-1894. Feliz Navidad!

Coed Party Line - Live chat & voice personals, LD rates, 18+, **1-809-563-9843**

WANTED

Need sports passes for the t.u. game. WILL PAY! 696-Needed: 2 sports passes to t.u. game. Will pay cash!

Students who need to lose weight. New metabolism breakthru. Guaranteed results. \$32 + free delivery

FANNY'S

Country Ballroom

ADMIT ONE WITH THIS AD T.A.M.U.

23238 S.H. 249 Tomball, TX 77375 713-370-1706

17 and up admitted Tues. - Sun. 7 p.m. - 2 a.m.

Expires: 12-30-95

History is against Alabama tea All six appeals made under the current NCAA system have been the

Thursday . November 16, 1995

That makes us optimistic," att Clark said. "After all, there has

to be odds in everything. A key issue will be the NCAA's finding that former fac ulty athletics representative Tom Jones was unethical in antio swering allegations that Lang. Tex ham signed with an agent in

Alabama contends it was unfairly blind-sided by the charge De involving Jones and did not have a chance to respond before the NCAA Infractions Committee, which imposed the penalties fol-lowing a June hearing.

"Had we known such a charge was being developed then we would have defended against that charge during the hearing," Clark said. Jones, vice dean

of the law school, has since stepped down from the athletics post, and Hootie Ingram resigned as athletics director. Former Brigham Young athletic director Glen Tuckett was brought in as interim AD to help re-

pair the damage.

In addition to the postseason ban, Alabama was forced to gir up 26 scholarships over three years and to forfeit eight win from 1993, when Langham continued playing despite having signed a representation contract.

Alabama contended Lang-

ham, a star defensive back now with the NFL's Cleveland Browns, was allowed to continue playing through an inadvertent The allegations surrounding Jelks involved claims he re-

ceived an improper loan from an Alabama booster and agent after

his eligibility was completed.

NBA referee lockout may end by Friday

CRIMSON TIDE

NBA officials met with union representatives for three hours on Wednesday.

Page 12 • THE BATTALION

If the NCAA lifts the

ban on Alabama, they

will go to a bowl game.

ATLANTA (AP) — Alabama's bowl hopes ride on what hap-

pens in an Atlanta hotel meeting room on Thursday, not at Jor-

dan-Hare Stadium in Auburn on

archrival Auburn for state bragging rights, the No. 17 Crimson

Tide goes before the NCAA Ap-

peals Committee to challenge

key NCAA findings.
On Aug. 2, the NCAA placed
Alabama's football program on

three years probation, banned it

from postseason play for one

year, ordered it to forfeit 11 games in 1993 and lose some

two dozen scholarships over three years. The university wants the NCAA to

With a record of 8-2 (5-2 in

Because bowl matchups will

"We feel that any time after

ber schools," said Culpepper

Clark, administrative assistant

to university president Roger

lift the postseason

ban, the forfeits and

the third year of pro-

bation, restoring nine of the lost

and probation were

imposed after the

NCAA found Alaba-

ma guilty of rules vi-

The sanctions

scholarships.

Just two days before playing

Saturday.

Alabama must face

NCAA before Auburn

NEW YORK (AP) - NBA referees, locked out since Oct. 1, could reach an agreement with the league by Friday, said Mike Mathis, the union's lead negotiator.

Mathis and other union representatives met for about three hours Wednesday with NBA officials, including commissioner David Stern. Negotiations were to continue Thurs-"We're encouraged," said

Mathis, a 19-year veteran ref. "The dialogue is open. We feel good about what went on to-The talks were the first face-

to-face negotiations since Oct.

28, and for the first time, the

NBA's contingent included 8.7 percent.

"We agreed not to go into any specifics about our meeting," said Jeffrey Mishkin, the league's chief legal officer. "It's too early to say whether or not we are making any progress." Mathis, however, was more

optimistic. He said it was possible a deal could be concluded by the end of the week, indicating the two sides have moved closer together on salary fig-

"We'll be able to tell more tomorrow," he said. "Once we get past the bottleneck issues, it would go pretty quick."

Once an agreement is reached, the 54 regular refs could be back on the court in about a week after completing a brief training camp. On Tuesday, the NBA sweet-

ened its offer to the referees, proposing a five-year deal with an average annual increase of